



September 2009



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Fall Special Town Meeting

There will be a
Special Town
Meeting on
October 19, 2009,
7:30PM in the
Abbot
Gymnasium.

Are you a "Recycling
Hero"?

Enter the monthly
drawing for \$50 at
www.westfordrecycles.org

Visit
www.westfordma.gov
for current news and
information.

Dear Westford Residents,

Our Fall Special Town Meeting will be held in the Abbot gymnasium on Monday, October 19, 2009. The warrant contains 14 articles for the town to take action on. A few of the articles have to do with balancing the budget, there are three articles regarding the deferral or exemption (if on active duty for at least 45 days, or wounded or killed in armed conflict) of motor vehicle taxes by Massachusetts National Guardsmen and Reservists when they are on active duty, there may be a capital request by the schools, there is an article to address the change in town meeting date from May to March, a request to update language in our Zoning Bylaws, an easement request by the Water Department on Country Road for an electric pole, a request to transfer care and custody of a parcel on Texas Road to the Con Com, a request to form a Department of Public Works and hire a director, and lastly, a citizen's petition seeking the town to accept Vose Hill Road as a public way. The warrant will be posted on the town's website

once signed by the Board of Selectmen. I urge you to attend our Special Town Meeting as this event is your voice over these affairs.

The Cameron Senior Center renovation/expansion project is well underway. You may find more details about this project in this newsletter. The Permanent Town Building Committee has issued the Construction Bid Documents for the Town Hall, with Bids due on September 24, 2009.

The task force assisting with the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the lease of the "Roudenbush-occupied" buildings is continuing, and we hope to release that RFP in October. All Roudenbush activities are continuing as usual during this process.

We are all hearing reports about the H1N1 (Swine) Flu. Our Board of Health is diligently working on this issue to help protect us all. There is further information in this newsletter including a

link to our website for the most up-to-date information.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the position of Assistant Town Manager was offered to and accepted by Andy Sheehan, who comes to us with 15 years of municipal experience. He was the Assistant to the City Manager of Lowell, most recently, and prior to that he was the Community Development Director in Chelmsford for 13 years. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Andy!

I hope you are taking full advantage of this gorgeous fall weather – this is why we call New England home! Take care, and I'll see you at town meeting.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

2009 SEASONAL FLU/PNEUMONIA CLINICS

The Westford Board of Health will sponsor free seasonal flu/pneumonia clinics on the dates, times and locations listed below. **No appointments are necessary. For additional information or for those requiring a home visit please call 978-692-5509 or 978- 399-2548.**

Because of limited availability – we ask if possible to have infants immunized at your medical provider. **People with known allergies to eggs and gelatin should not receive the flu shot.** Anyone with a history of **Guillian-Barre Syndrome** should check with their MD before receiving this vaccination.

WESTFORD RESIDENTS ONLY

September 22

This clinic is for Senior Citizen/High Risk Individuals (Over 60 years, pregnant women, caretakers of children under 6 months of age and those with chronic medical illnesses)

Times:
10:00am-3:00pm
(senior citizens)

(A-H) 10:00-11:00
(I-Q) 11:00-12:00
(R-Z) 12:00-1:00

1:00-3:00 (High risk individuals below age 60)

Location:
Franco American Club

Additional Clinics for any Westford Residents > 6 months. All children under 18 years must be accompanied by a parent!

October 6

Times:
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Location:
JV Fletcher Library

October 14

Times:
4:00pm-8:00pm

Location:
Millennium School

October 17th

Family Clinic – Age 6 months-18 years *with* parents

Times:
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location:
Millennium School

October 20

Time:
4pm-8pm

Location:
Millennium School

New Recommendations for 2009 Flu Vaccine

The flu vaccine is recommended for the following groups of people:

I. Persons at Increased Risk for Influenza-Related Complications:

1. All children 6 months – 18 years of age
2. All persons \geq 50 years of age.
3. Women who will be pregnant during influenza season.
4. Persons 6 months – 18 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy.
5. Residents of long-term care facilities and persons with chronic medical conditions.

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“For additional information please contact the Health Department at 978 692-5509.”



HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

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II. Persons Who Can Transmit Influenza to Persons at High Risk:

1. Personnel in both hospital and outpatient settings, including emergency response workers.
2. Employees of long-term care facilities who have contact with patients or residents
3. Employees at assisted living and other residences for persons in high-risk groups.
4. Persons who provide home care to persons in high-risk groups.
5. Household contacts (including children) of persons in high-risk groups.
6. Household contacts and out-of-home caretakers of children 0 –59 months of age.

1. Persons who provide essential community services.
2. Students and other persons in institutional settings, (e.g., dormitories).
3. Certain travelers.
4. Anyone who wishes to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza or transmitting influenza to others should they become infected.

The 3 strains in this year's formulation is as follows:

**A/Brisbane/59/2007
(H1 N1) like virus**

**A/Brisbane/10/2007
(H3 N2) like virus**

**B/Brisbane 60/2008–
like virus**

Information on H1N1 Clinics

H1N1 vaccination dates are being planned but will not be advertised until vaccine shipment dates can be confirmed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Please watch for

additional information in the weeks to come.

The Health Department would like to remind all residents to continue to take every precaution to protect themselves against both seasonal and H1N1 including practicing good hand washing techniques, frequent use of alcohol based gels, practicing good cough etiquette and covering a sneeze with a tissue which should be disposed of properly. Anyone ill should stay home until they are temperature free for 24 hours with no fever reducers and remember to always keep your distance from any ill persons. For additional information please contact the Health Department at 978 692-5509.

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III. General Population, depending on vaccine availability:



HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

FREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

LYME DISEASE A GROWING PROBLEM

Cases of Lyme disease continue to increase in Westford. It is the fastest growing infectious disease in America, yet it is misdiagnosed 50% of the time.

Massachusetts is now listed within the top five states with the highest rate of infection. Come join Dr Luz Jacqueline Ruiz for an informative presentation on the disease, treatment and preventive efforts residents can take. There will also be a questions and answers period. Dr Ruiz is a Board Certified Neurologist, with a special interest in Lyme disease. She is affiliated with Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, Boston MA. and Nashoba Valley Medical Center, Ayer Ma.

Reservations are recommended. Call 978-692-5509 by Sept 21.

**Date:
Thursday Sept. 24**

**Time:
7:00p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Location:
Rita Miller Cafeteria**

NOVEL H1N1 VIRUS ARE WE READY AND HOW CAN WE PROTECT OURSELVES?

Come hear from a leading public health expert the facts on how the H1N1 virus is spread, what risks you face, and what you can do to protect yourself including being immunized.

Presenter, Dr. Al DeMaria, Assistant Commissioner of the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, will discuss the nation's experience with pandemic swine-origin influenza and how our response to the global pandemic fits into plans that have been carefully developed and refined over the years.

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He'll also cover some of the modifications made in the planned response, based on recent experience with the H1N1 virus.

Dr. DeMaria will put H1N1 within the context of seasonal influenza vaccination efforts, highlighting the major challenges, and exploring possible scenarios for the future.

Reservations are recommended by Sept 30. Call 978-692-5509

**Date:
Weds. Sept. 30**

**Time:
7 to 9 p.m.**

**Location:
Blanchard Middle
School**



"Reservations are recommended. Call 978-692-5509"

Remembering September 11, 2001

Fire Department



Most people can tell you just where, when and what they were doing on September 11, 2001 when the World Trade Center was attacked. Just like those who can recall Pearl Harbor. As devastating both the events are September 11, 2001 is on the minds of many because modern technology brought the event live into our homes and work places. About 3,000 people perished that day and Westford would not go untouched as two citizens of Westford lost their lives aboard of one of the planes that struck the towers. There would be 83 citizens from Massachusetts that would be added to the roles of that tragic day.

This year President Obama signed legislation to establish the anniversary of 9/11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance. What makes this special is that this bill was named after our past Honorable

Massachusetts Senator Ed Kennedy. The bill signed into law is named the "Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act" which for the first time includes federal authorization to establish September 11 as an annually recognized national Day of Service and Remembrance.

David Paine, founder and president of the nonprofit group MyGoodDeed.org, led a seven-year campaign to formally establish 9/11 as an annually recognized day of service and remembrance. David stated "There isn't a better or more fitting way to remember 9/11 than for all of us Americans to voluntarily set aside time on the anniversary of September 11 attacks to help others in need."

This new law created by President Obama is historic in that it truly honors the 9/11 victims and their families,

firefighters, police officers, first responders, rescue and recovery workers, as well as our soldiers who have taken up arms to defend our freedom and safety. This new law encourages individuals and organizations to set aside time on the anniversary of 9/11 to perform simple acts of good deeds and service that help others in need.

Those of us in the fire service will never forget the 343 members of FDNY who gave the ultimate sacrifice as it is a constant reminder the dangers our job presents at any given moment. What will you do to remember 9/11? I hope some good deed to those less fortunate.

Respectfully Submitted
Lt. Donald R. Parsons
Fire Prevention





J. V. FLETCHER LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

Westford parents should be very proud of their Readers!

The annual Children's and Young Adult Summer Reading Programs hosted by the J. V. Fletcher Library were a huge success! Almost 2,000 youngsters registered, hundreds of children attended weekly programs, had reading logbooks stamped, earned reading raffle tickets, voted books "out" of the Australian Outback, and best of all, spent their summer reading and having fun doing it!!!

Research shows that a youngster must read six books over the course of the summer to return to school the next academic year at the same reading level. And while it is no surprise that strong reading skills correlate with academic achievement and more financially rewarding careers, who knew that literary readers were twice as likely to volunteer and do charity work, or attend a

sporting event (44%) or exercise (72%)? Or that reading and writing are cited by employers as the top deficiencies in their new hires? Children of readers, of course, are more likely to become readers themselves and engage in this life-changing and rewarding skill. * The Fletcher Library is unique in offering an ADULT Summer Reading Program – which additionally boasted 131 registrants.

Thanks to the support and funding of the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library, Inc., Westford youngsters enjoyed fun weekly prizes, awesome raffle gifts, and entertaining programs of the highest caliber. To sum it all up:

- **over 1,800 Children and Young Adults signed up for both summer reading programs**
- **1,757 children, Young Adults, parents and caregivers attended 22**

programs

- **Westford children and families attended 2 Book Sales – one family-focused and one featuring juvenile and young adult titles**
- **Almost 99,500 items circulated from the library in June, July and August**

Reading it turns out IS A BLAST!

*From "To Read or Not to Read" (National Endowment for the Arts' Research data on America reading)



"Thanks to the support and funding of the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library, Inc., Westford youngsters enjoyed fun weekly prizes, awesome raffle gifts, and entertaining programs of the highest caliber."



ASSESSORS' OFFICE

This coming Special Town Meeting there will be 3 warrant articles placed by the Assessors' office and the Veterans Agent. These articles will give added benefits to those military residents on active duty, and those who are members of the National Guard or Reservists that are currently deployed. This office, the Board of Assessors and the Veterans Agent whole heartedly support these benefits and ask for your support on these important warrant articles at the Special Town Meeting October 19, 2009.

As September approaches the Assessors' office has been busy finalizing the annual interim revaluation. We have been revaluing annually since FY 2000. As of FY 2005, the Department of Revenue requires all towns to conduct interim revaluations annually. The assessment date is January 1, 2009 for Fiscal Year 2010. We go to July 1 for our annual Growth which encompasses all building permits for both new construction and renovations. We also

review weekly, all current listings noted in MLS (Multiple Listing Service) for additional growth which stems from renovations completed without building permits. Finally, we review and inspect properties that have not been looked at within the last 10 years. These three steps are done annually and are a constant ongoing process.

We start the certification process early, usually by mid September submitting proposed assessments, and growth and sales reports to the Department of Revenue. Hopefully, preliminary certification will be in hand before Special Town Meeting. Once Special Town Meeting business has concluded, we continue the Recapitulation process with the Department of Revenue seeking preliminary approvals prior to and up to the Classification Hearing with the Board of Selectmen. If all goes well, we anticipate, the Classification Hearing to be before Thanksgiving, which is when the Selectmen decide and vote on a tax rate. At

that point, we can then finish the recapitulation process with the Department of Revenue and await their final approval and certification. Finally, we will be working closely with the Collector's Office and the printing company to get the tax bills out by January 1, 2010.



Cameron Senior Center Update

Cameron Senior Center John Volkert, Project Manager for the Cameron Senior Center construction project reports that as of August 31, 2009, the new addition foundation is completed. The exterior walls of the foundation have been damp proofed and backfilled. The column leveling plates have been set. The interior basement floor for the addition has been compacted and crushed stone placed for the slab on grade concrete. To date the concrete test break results have been excellent. The framing sub has completed the attic floor framing with 2" x 12" LVL sisters to the

existing joists and the installation of two 5" x 16" LVL beams as well as placing $\frac{3}{4}$ " particle board flooring.

The parcel A portion of the site is progressing with loaming and recycled pavement is being screened and stockpiled for use as dense graded stone below the pavement binder course.

The fire and domestic water service lines have been installed to the building under the existing foundation.

Framing of the partition walls on the existing first and second floor should be completed this week. HVAC duct material has been delivered to the site and some has been installed in coordination

with the partition framing. Where necessary, selected sections of old duct has been removed (second floor and attic). The crane for the steel erection as well as the material has arrived.

